

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An interlocking attaching system for removably securing an accessory object to a substrate object, the system comprising:

a one piece molded substrate adapter including a generally flat base having a bottom side for affixing to the substrate object and a top side having a plurality of raised regions formed thereon at spaced apart locations disposed along a first main axis, the raised regions having slots formed therein defining a first plurality of passages oriented parallel to the first main axis and aligned with one another along a first passage axis;

a one piece molded accessory adapter including a generally flat base having a bottom side for affixing to the accessory object and a top side having a plurality of raised regions formed thereon at spaced-apart locations disposed along a second main axis, the raised regions having slots formed therein defining a second plurality of passages oriented parallel to the second main axis and aligned with one another along a second passage axis, the spacing between the locations of the raised regions of the adapters being dimensioned to position at least one of the raised regions of one of the adapters between at least two of the raised regions of the other adapter when the adapters are placed in operational alignment with their respective top sides together and the with the first and second passage axes aligned with one another; and

a discrete locking member having a leading end and a trailing end and being removably insertable leading-end-first through the passages on the raised regions of both of the adapters when the adapters are in operational alignment;

wherein insertion of the locking member through the passages on the raised regions of both of the adapters when the adapters in operational alignment interlocks the accessory object to the substrate object, and withdrawal of the locking member from the passages releases the accessory object from the substrate object.

2. The interlocking attaching system of claim 1, wherein the substrate adapter is affixable to a substrate object by sewing around the periphery of the substrate adapter base.

3. The interlocking attaching system of claim 1, wherein the accessory adapter is affixable to an accessory object by sewing around the periphery of the accessory adapter base.

4. The interlocking attaching system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the substrate adapter and the accessory adapter is flexible so as to allow substantial bending in both the lateral and longitudinal directions.

5. The interlocking attaching system of claim 4, wherein the raised regions of the flexible adapter are relatively rigid such that the respective passages remain open when the adapter bends in both the lateral and longitudinal directions.

6. The interlocking attaching system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the substrate adapter and the accessory adapter is formed of a polymer material using injection molding.

7. The interlocking attaching system of claim 6, wherein the respective bases of the substrate and accessory adapters do not extend beneath the respective raised areas of each adapter.

8. The interlocking attaching system of claim 1, further comprising:
a first component of a latching mechanism for releasably securing the locking member in a predetermined position of engagement with the accessory adapter disposed on the accessory adapter;
5 a second component of the latching mechanism disposed the locking member; and
wherein the first and second components of the latching mechanism are operably engaged when the locking member is fully inserted into the accessory adapter.

9. The interlocking attaching system of claim 8, wherein at least one first component of a latching mechanism is disposed at each end of the accessory adapter such that the second component of the latching mechanism on the locking member is operably engaged to one of the at least one first components when the locking member is fully inserted into the accessory adapter from either direction.

5

10. The interlocking attaching system of claim 1, wherein the locking member is relatively rigid such that it may be inserted through the passages in the adapter member and substrate member when the adapters are in operational configuration by applying force on the trailing end only.

11. The interlocking attaching system of claim 1, wherein the raised regions of each adapter have a width of about one inch or less, and the spacing between the raised regions of the each adapter is about one inch.

12. The interlocking attaching system of claim 1, wherein substrate member includes at least three raised regions and the adapter member includes at least two raised regions.

13. An interlocking attaching system for removably securing an accessory object to a substrate object, the system comprising:

a substrate adapter including a base having a bottom side for affixing to the substrate object and a top side having at least one loop column formed thereon, each loop column including a plurality of loops disposed at spaced apart locations along a column axis and oriented so as to define a common passage therethrough;

an accessory adapter including a base having a bottom side for affixing to the accessory object and a top side having at least one loop column formed thereon, each loop column including a plurality of loops disposed at spaced apart locations along a column axis and oriented so as to define a common passage therethrough;

a discrete locking member that is removably insertable through the common passages of both of the adapters;

wherein the spacing between the loops of the adapters are dimensioned to position at least one of the loops of each loop column of one of the adapters between at least two of the loops of each corresponding loop column of the other adapter when the adapters are placed in operational alignment with their respective top sides together and with the common passages of the corresponding loop columns aligned; and

wherein insertion of the locking member into the common passages of the respective adapters when the adapters are in operational alignment interlocks the accessory object to the substrate object, and withdrawal of the locking member from the common passages releases the accessory object from the substrate object.

14. The interlocking attaching system of claim 13, wherein at least one of the substrate adapter and the accessory adapter has at least two loop columns formed thereon, the column axes of the loop columns being oriented parallel to one another.

15. The interlocking attaching system of claim 14, wherein at least one of the substrate adapter and the accessory adapter has at least four loop columns formed thereon, the column axes of the loop columns being oriented parallel to one another.

16. The interlocking attaching system of claim 13, wherein the substrate adapter interlocks with an accessory adapter having the same number of loop columns.

17. The interlocking attaching system of claim 13, wherein the substrate adapter interlocks with an accessory adapter having a different number of loop columns.

18. A substrate adapter for removably securing an accessory object to a substrate object, the substrate adapter being a one-piece article comprising a base having a bottom side for affixing to the substrate object and a top side having at least two loop columns formed thereon, each loop column including a plurality of loops disposed at spaced apart locations along a column axis and oriented so as to define a common passage therethrough, all of the column axes being parallel to one another.

19. The substrate adapter of claim 18, wherein the adapter is affixable to a substrate object by sewing around the periphery of the base.

20. The substrate adapter of claim 19, wherein the adapter is formed of an injection molded polymer material.

21. A wearable garment comprising:
a garment body constituting a fabric substrate; and
a substrate adapter in accordance with claim 18 affixed to the garment body by sewing.

22. An accessory adapter for removably securing an accessory object to a substrate object in conjunction with a locking member having a first component of a latching mechanism, the accessory adapter being a one-piece article comprising:

5 a base having a bottom side for affixing to the accessory object and a top side having at least one loop column formed thereon, each loop column including a plurality of loops disposed at spaced apart locations along a column axis and oriented so as to define a common passage therethrough, all of the column axes being parallel to one another; and

10 at least one second component of the latching mechanism, each second component of the latching mechanism being disposed on the base in association with a particular loop column for releasably securing the locking member in a predetermined position of engagement with the accessory adapter when the locking member is inserted into the common passage of the respective loop column.

23. The accessory adapter of claim 22, wherein the adapter is affixable to a substrate object by sewing around the periphery of the base.

24. The accessory adapter of claim 23, wherein the adapter is formed of an injection molded polymer material.